

Remarks

Claims 1 to 12, 14 to 23, 25 to 28, 31 and 32 remain pending in this Application. Claim 33 has been canceled without prejudice.

5 Claim 33 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrington (U.S. Patent 5,815,627). Applicants have cancelled claim 33 without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejection is considered moot.

10 The Office Action states that "claims 1-12, 14-23 and 31-32 are allowed." The Office Action establishes for the record that "the prior art of record fails to disclose or reasonably suggest a flexible, hollow waveguide for transmitting radiation in visible and IR regions, comprising a composite of dielectric, sulfide-containing materials forming a photonic, bandgap tube transmitting in the visible and IR regions in combination with the other limitations of claims 1 and 16."

15 The Office Action establishes for the record that "the prior art of record fails to disclose or reasonably suggest a flexible, hollow waveguide comprising a composite of dielectric materials disposed upon the metallic layer featuring disparate refractive indices with a ratio of approximately 2:1, wherein the composite of dielectric materials form sulfide-containing layers in combination the other limitations of claim 9."

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 The Office Action establishes for the record that "the prior art of record also fails to disclose or reasonably suggest a flexible, hollow waveguide comprising a

composite of dielectric materials disposed upon the smooth inner bore surface of said transparent annular body, featuring disparate refractive indices with a ratio of approximately 2:1, wherein the composite of dielectric materials respectively comprise two sulfide layers in combination with the other limitations of claim 23."

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The Office Action further establishes that "the prior art of record fails to disclose or reasonably suggest a method of fabricating a flexible, hollow waveguide using liquid phase deposition, comprising the steps of depositing two sulfide-containing layers, cadmium sulfide and lead sulfide, respectively, upon said metallic
10 layer of step (a) in combination with the other limitations of claim 28."

The Office Action also establishes that "the prior art of record fails to disclose or reasonably suggest a method of fabricating a flexible, hollow waveguide using liquid phase deposition, comprising the steps of depositing a first layer of cadmium
15 sulfide upon an inner, smooth bore surface of a hollow silica-glass tube; and depositing at least a second layer of lead sulfide over the first layer of cadmium sulfide in combination with the other limitations of claim 31."

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-12, 14-23
20 and 31-32.

Applicants urge that the claims as now presented are patentable over the prior art. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed, and the case passed to issue. However, if the Examiner believes that any other issues remain, the Undersigned respectfully requests the Examiner to telephone him in order to provide Applicants an opportunity to remove such issues, to ensure the earliest issuance of a patent.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Watov". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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